

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 STR-04 COME-00 SP-02 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02
DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /065 W
-----071153Z 060588 /41

R 061450Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4735
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5968

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRA, EEWT, PFOR, GE
SUBJ: GDR SERVICE ENGINEERS

1. THE DEPT WILL RECALL THAT THE USG HAD MOVED CLOSER TO APPROVING PROLONGED US STAYS BY GDR COMMERCIAL SERVICE ENGINEERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHEN GDR ACTIONS AND ASSERTIONS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF BERLIN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR MADE IT INOPPORTUNE FOR THE US TO ACCEDE TO THE GDR DESIRES. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE OUR RESPONSE WAS APPROPRIATE AND CORRECT AT THE TIME, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE GDR RECEIVED THE MESSAGE WE WISHED TO CONVEY, I.E. THAT GDR ACTIONS ON BERLIN DO NOT OCCUR IN A VACUUM, BUT IMPACT ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

2. SINCE THEN WE HAVE MAINTAINED THAT THE ISSUE OF PROLONGED STAYS FOR SERVICE ENGINEERS IS OF OBVIOUSLY FAR LESSER IMPORTANCE TO THE GDR THAN THE FUNDAMENTALLY IMPORTANT QUESTION OF BERLIN AS THEIR "CAPITAL", AND THAT OUR STAND ON THE SERVICE ENGINEERS SHOULD BE VIEWED MORE IN SYMBOLIC TERMS THAN AS A REALISTIC EFFORT TO INFLUENCE GDR BEHAVIOR ON BERLIN. WE HAVE MAINTAINED AS
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WELL THAT A FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO OUR DIPLOMACY THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE THE GDR IN WAYS THAT COULD ENHANCE THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THE US IN OUR RELATIONS.

3. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE IMPENDING INAUGURAL JOINT WASHINGTON SESSION OF THE US-GDR AND GDR-US PRIVATE

TRADE COMMITTEES PRESENTS A LOGICAL OPPORTUNITY TO SIGNAL
USG SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS
BY LIFTING OUR OBJECTION TO PROLONGED STAYS BY GDR
SERVICE ENGINEERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. TO DO SO BEFORE
THE PLANNED JUNE 4 TRADE COMMITTEE SESSION WILL IMPROVE
THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THAT MEETING TAKES PLACE, AND
WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AS WELL IN CONTEXT OF RECENT GDR
STEPS TO RESOLVE HUMANITARIAN CASES OF INTEREST TO THE
US.

4. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT.POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, PFOR, GC
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